



By JACK O. BALDWIN

It wasn't because I wanted to save the money (which it was), it was just that I wanted to stand back when it was all done and be able to say, "Yep, I did it all myself."

That's how I came to do my own plumbing.

"A guy who works in an office all day and gets no more exercise than pointing a typewriter, ought to have something to do to keep himself in shape. And besides, it'll be a form of relaxation because it will take my mind off my business," is the way I reasoned it out.

And so I launched the project of doing all the work, including the plumbing on a room I am adding to my house.

The first thing I learned is that a water closet is not a place to hang wet clothes. I wonder what it is that plumbers and plumbing inspectors have against calling it a toilet. Why complicate matters?

"I've got to turn off the water for a few minutes," I told my wife. That was 9 a.m. Sunday morning. Thirteen hours later the water was still off. All day my wife made trips to the neighbors, a kettle in each hand, borrowing water. Every two hours she would load the four kids in the car and drive to the nearest service station to use its rest room.

Underneath the house I was a busy little boy. The hack saw jumped and cut my thumb. I scratched the top of my head on nails sticking through the floor. I was getting exercise all right. Lying on my back in the dirt, a pushin' and a shovin' and scratching a thousand fleas.

I was soldering a fitting to a copper pipe. Wiggling around in the dirt had caused my shirt to creep up under my armpits in a nice comfortable tangled twisted knot. Hot solder dropped on my tummy and my exclamations brought a reprimand by the spouse who could hear me on the other side of the floor in the kitchen.

"Jack, for goodness sake, this is Sunday! The children are home."

The climax came when I dropped the hot soldering iron. It rolled in a wobbly fashion across my bare tummy. I guess I'm the only resident of Kettner Knolls who has a scar from the belt line of a soldering iron that looks like one half of an enlarged zipper.

"Stand by for a test," I shouted to my wife. "Have one of the kids turn on the valve. If I holler "off"—turn it off."

I was testing for a leak. "Okay, on!"

There was just one pinhole leak. "Off!" I called. He turned the valve the wrong way. The fitting blew off. Hot water poured out in a flood. I nearly drowned. I was nearly scalded to death and the ground underneath the house turned to slimy mud. I reached for the extension cord and got a shock. I jerked my arm back cracking my elbow against the sewer pipe and hitting my crazy bone.

But I did save money. When the blow torch I was using to melt lead tipped over, it burned a hole in the floor. I repaired the hole myself saving the cost of a carpenter.

I dug a deep trench for the sewer line. It took me a day and a half to dig the trench. Water from the lawn sprinkler filled it up the next day.

Well, it's nearly done now. When company comes and sees what I have done all by myself they are surprised. A few are REAL surprised. Ours is the only toilet with hot water. With California winters being as mild as they are, I wonder why more people haven't thought of it.

Chamber of Commerce Board Hears Budget

Members of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week discussed the proposed 1952-53 Torrance Unified School District budget with school administrators Dr. J. H. Hull and Emmett Ingram. The meeting is held annually to acquaint the "boosters" with school problems and finances.



TEST PILOT . . . Al Bayer makes some last-minute adjustments just before he cranks up Egge for a 10-minute whirl high above the local airfield. Built by McCullough Motors, the little 'copter can travel 120 miles per hour.

Chamber Orders 10,000 Maps

A new batch of Torrance maps, 10,000 in all, has been ordered by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors Monday afternoon, Dale Isenberg, executive secretary, was instructed to double the proposed order of 5000.

The new maps will show more than 50 new streets that have been created since the publication of the last city map.

In addition, the map will show the location of all Torrance's industries as well as marking the location of schools, public buildings and other landmarks. The maps will be distributed free of charge by the Chamber.

First Aid Instruction Given in New Class

First aid instruction is continuing each Monday and Wednesday nights at the Civil Defense building, 1754 Torrance Blvd. Red Cross instructor Mrs. M. Ferguson is in charge.

'Our Town' Debut Set For THS, August 1, 2

Local debut of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer prize-winning play "Our Town" will be made August 1 and 2 in the Torrance High School auditorium, Dan Desmond, director, said yesterday.

The play will be presented by the Torrance Community Players, sponsored by the Adult Education Department of the Torrance High School District.

The centrally-staged production, first of its kind in Torrance, will feature outstanding talent from the Torrance community and neighboring cities. Mrs. Elsie L. Pestoff will make her first appearance on the city stage as Mrs. Webb, mother of Emily, the protagonist of the play. Mrs. Pestoff brings with her a knowledge of the setting of the play, Grover's Corners, N. H., for it was in the New England states that she grew up, attended school and gained early experience in the theater.

The World's Smallest Egge Takes Test Hops Right Here

By DICK FRIEND

Little Egge roared her powerful air-cooled engine, shivered a time or two and leaped into the air some seven feet, where she paused like a sleepy cat on a sunny afternoon.

Then with a sudden whoosh, her nose dropped a foot or two and away she went, higher and higher, as she reached speeds of 120 miles an hour.

Egge, short for egg-beater, is one of two midjet, double-rotor helicopters now in existence, the smallest tandem ships in the world. And what's more, she takes her test flights right out on Torrance Municipal Airport, under the guiding hands of Al Bayer, director of flight and service for McCullough Motors Corp., builders of the Little craft.

Like An Eggbeater Termed eggbeaters because the sleek, little ship has a pair of rotating metal blades atop its fuselage, Egge was manufactured at McCullough's Westchester plant, but the company maintains its testing division at the local air strip.

Built now primarily for military use, the helicopters weigh only 2300 pounds; they carry a load of 840 pounds, or a couple of men all dressed up in full flying regalia, and a big bundle of baggage. Egge is equipped with full dual controls, so either man can take a stint at flying her. And, says Bayer, it's no easy task.

"You can't compare helicopter flying to standard aircraft flying," Bayer claims. "They are two entirely different machines, each requiring special skills."

Instruments Galore Inside of the plastic cockpit of the tandem ship is a maze of buttons, instruments and levers. Every flying function of the ship, climbing, banking and diving, are all done by altering the pitch of the rotors whirling atop the metal fuselage.

There are no wings or tail assembly. Only two carefully synchronized, three-blade props. For power, the 'copter utilizes a 200-horse horsepower "air-cooled" motor. Carrying 30 gallons of fuel, the ship can fly nearly 250 miles, or stay above for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. McCullough started turning out the silver ships in March, 1951, and has built two, the second nearing completion tests now.

Civilian Use Soon Bayer said that his company is now in the process of obtaining a CAA "type-certification" a clearance from the federal government in order that the 'copters can be manufactured for private and commercial use. Egge, still undergoing flying tests, is 90 per cent complete, with almost all of the bugs blown from her little metal and plastic frame.



MAKE HER READY . . . Bob Cantely checks the alignment on one of the three-blade rotors on Little Egge, the world's smallest tandem helicopter, just prior to her test flights at the Torrance airfield. Don Platz confers with Don Samse at the controls of the midjet "egg beater."



LIKE A BIRD . . . Egge, without a sputter, hovers eight or ten feet off the ground as test pilot Al Bayer warms her up before going aloft. The helicopter, weighing only 2300 pounds loaded, has countless uses in military and commercial fields, builders claim. It is tested nearly every day on the Torrance air strip.

Four Injured As Three Cars Smash Up Here

Four persons were hurt in a three-car crackup at Carson and Grace Sts. in the Keystone district Sunday night, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Injured were Frank C. Nichols, 41; David C. Brown, 18; Dorothy Baldwin, 16, all of Long Beach, and Carol Webb, 15, of 22432 S. Island St. The girls were passengers in a car driven by Brown.

Other drivers were Nicholas and Johnny Gutierrez, 17, of 21816 Wilmington Ave. All were treated at Harbor General Hospital. Brown suffered shock and head injuries, and Nicholas back injuries. The girls were treated for minor cuts and bruises.

Torrance Man Intelligence Officer Now

First Lt. Joseph T. Colabella, 2459 Torrance Blvd., is now serving as intelligence officer for the "Kyunshu Gypsies" squadron in the thick of the Korean conflict.

The squadron contains a Royal Hellenic Air Force flight, and the language barrier sometimes poses a minor problem, which is ironed out by A/3C Pete Papanonakis, Baltimore, Md., who serves as interpreter. Papanonakis is an American citizen by birth but has spent most of his life in Greece.

Stationers Move Into New Store

Opening this week in expanded quarters at 1423 Marcelina Ave. was the Parrish Stationers, owned and operated by Darwin and Helen Parrish.

Formerly located a few doors north at 1415 Marcelina, the stationery store moved over the weekend and are now doing business in their new location. Inventories of office equipment, stationery, and supplies have been expanded considerably, Parrish stated.

The store will continue to be run by the Parrishes, Jim Wood, Gerri Wood, Ed Vang and Bob Shell. The firm has the Royal Typewriter agency for this area and features Globe-Wernicke desks and office equipment. Self service merchandising is featured at the new location. A greater selection of greeting cards, books, maps, school and office supplies are out on counters where the public may compare and select the item wanted, Parrish said.

Four Beauties Join Miss Lomita Contest

Four lively lassies already have signed to compete for the "Miss Lomita" title to be decided at a colorful pageant July 26 at the Lomita VFW hall.

Entered in the queen contest are Dorothy Sandoval, 16, Harbor City; Betty Hutchinson, 16, Harbor City; Carol Jollenstein, 17, Lomita; and Nancy Kline, 16, Lomita.

Miss Sandoval was the first to sign her name on the list of entrants for the Lomita Optimists Club-sponsored affair. Miss Hutchinson is "Miss Harbor City" titlist. Selected at Dance Miss Lomita will be selected at a dance and gala program on July 26, according to Bill Guerin, chairman of the event for the Optimists. More names of girls anxious to vie for the title are being sought, Guerin stated. Sponsors who will provide bathing suits for the beauties required.

National Opens Shop in Hadacol

No doubt many National Supply Co. employees have had Hadacol in their diet, but now, the company announces, it is going to have employees in Hadacol.

That was the gist of an announcement made this week by the company that a National oil field supply store, was being opened in Hadacol, Tex., a hamlet 42 miles southeast of Midland.

In the heart of the Spraberry Area, scene of an exciting oil boom, Hadacol is 20 miles from the nearest paved road and 40 miles from the nearest railroad. The hamlet started when "Hadacol" Darksins of Midland set up a trailer at the road crossing to sell soft drinks, sandwiches, and candy. Nearby was a guide post with signs pointing to various drilling developments. At the top Darksins put a sign: "Hadacol Corners." As the settlement grew, the word "Corners" was dropped.